

COST OF U. S. GOVERNMENT IS BOOSTED BY THE MILEAGE GRAB IN CONGRESS

(Continued From First Page.)

the round trip mileage. In these days of high costs this sum is not to be sneezed at even by a member of Congress. The mileage for the members from the far Western States, such as California, amounts to more than \$1,000 per annum. Mileage is pure "velvet." Voting mileage is one of the most popular indoor sports among Congressmen.

Formerly clerks to Senators as well as the Senators themselves got mileage, but some years ago public criticism of the mileage grab became so severe that something had to be done to stop the clamor, so the clerks were made the sacrificial lambs.

One of the remarkable features is that men who have earned the sobriquet "watchdog of the treasury" by their opposition to wasteful appropriations of various kinds are

among those who have voted most readily for measures which put money in their own pockets through increased clerk hire, appropriations for extra clerks and mileage.

UNEQUAL SALARIES CITED IN DEFENSE.

The mileage grab has been defended on the ground that if there were no mileage there would be a condition of unequal salaries paid Representatives and Senators. That is, members from the far west would pay so much more than those from nearby States for transportation expenses to Washington that it would really mean less pay than for others. Some of those who have taken this position have advocated members certifying their actual expenses, but this has always been voted down by the majority as "impracticable." In 1914 the House put it on a basis of "actual ex-

penses," but after a long wrangle in the Senate the old appropriation of 20 cents a mile each way was restored. At this time, the matter of cutting mileage to 10 or 15 cents a mile was discussed. Some defended this grab on the ground that the Senators go back and forth more often since popular elections of Senators require them to keep in closer touch with their constituents.

When the question was up in 1914 and the House had proposed abolishing the old law the late Senator Bankhead of Alabama inquired whether a motion to strike the entire mileage section from the bill was in order and when it was ruled out of order he ex-

plained that he merely wanted to throw a scare into those patriots on the House side who had willingly voted down mileage knowing full well it would be restored in the Senate and agreed to by the House conference.

URGES SETTLEMENT OF QUESTION IN SOME WAY.

"I want to say in defense of this motion, if I am permitted to make it under the rule," said Senator Bankhead, "that I am in favor of the law as it stands. I shall vote for mileage as it now is and has been for a great many years. But, Mr. President, I have had so much experience and observation on this question of mileage

that I think it ought to be settled in some way. I confess in making this motion I have suggested it might be regarded as a little bit wicked on my part. I should like to see the matter adopted; I should like to see the matter stricken out of the bill, so that I could go to another House and watch some of these economists faint. I have no doubt, Mr. President, a careful observer would see some gentlemen on this side turn very pale. This matter ought to be settled. We ought to knock it out. I think perhaps that would be the best thing to do. Then at the next session of Congress it might be reinstated perhaps." The House at that time wanted to give the Senators mileage, at 5 cents a mile, one trip, the House members to be allowed actual expenses for all dependent members of their families.

WOMAN ACCUSES FOUR BOYS.

Says One Snatched a Watch From Her Wrist—Assault Charged.

Michael Pasco, a laborer, of No. 2023 First Avenue; Joseph Mauno, a shipping clerk, of No. 328 East 109th Street; and John Grazlato, a machinist, of No. 242

East 109th Street, all eighteen years old, and Vincent Vi Salvo, seventeen years old, a printer, of No. 244 East 109th Street, were arrested last night by detectives Vachuda, McLaughlin and Quaine on complaint of Mrs. Lena Schwartz, of No. 228 East 109th Street. Mrs. Schwartz alleges that Pasco took a wrist watch from her arm and

that when she held him and called for her husband the other three boys pointed upon her and her husband, that boys are charged with assault and robbery. Mrs. Schwartz said two small boys were standing in a vacant lot and that Pasco was a spectator. She said that when she told the boys to stop fighting, Pasco pulled the watch from her wrist.

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